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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** [Fwd: Microsoft Settlement]

Respected Members of the U.S Justice Department.

For some time I have watched the Antitrust case of several U.S states vs Microsoft with hope, trepidation and sometimes dismay. As a technologist for over a decade I have observed the tactics Microsoft has employed to maintain it's dominant market position often at the expense of business.

It seems to me that these enterprises have to pay a "Microsoft Tax" and in return, innovation and competition is stifled. This is surely a development America and her corporate citizens can ill afford to allow continue. I beleive that the point has been reached where Microsoft has become a burden to the information economy, and an appropriate settlement must be reached.

I believe a break up of the company would serve little or no purpose as the real issue is Microsoft's behaviour and strategies focused on leveraging market share through control of innovations by restricting vendor freedom. A settlement that benefits the I.T industry by re-introducing competition, will create a stimulus in the economy as a result of freedom of choice. I reason that such a settlement will also benefit Microsoft by creating change within the corporation.

These practises must stop for the information economy to evolve and such mechanisms for acheiving this may include:

1. Publish Interfaces and standards.

An end the Microsoft (MS) practice of "embracing and extending" method of acquiring ownership of publicly owned protocols. This could be acheived by requiring MS to publish the extensions to file formats, software interfaces and communications formats on implementation of a software component. It is this behavoir that threatens to uproot the Open Systems Interconnect model that is the foundation for the information economy.

2. Defensive only Legal and contractual restrictions

Prevent MS from using aggressive patents, lawsuits and non-disclosure agreements to restrict innovation. These tactics used against vendors and particularly volunteer computer programmers and computer scientists destroy enterprise and opportunity within the information industry.

As an Australian citizen I respectfully ask you consider my contribution as a friend of the American people. Your decisions will have international ramifications and I would hope these suggestions provide you with some useful insight.

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